

# AWARENESS OF THE SCHEDULED CASTE PEOPLE ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMMES IN THE ZARUGUMALLI AND VAVILETIPADU VILLAGES OF ZARUGUMALLI MANDAL IN PRAKASAM DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

**U. KIRAN**

*Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi, India*

## **ABSTRACT**

*Prakasam District was purposively selected for the study as the researcher is an employee of Syndicate bank, Zarugumalli as Rural Development officer, to know the awareness of the scheduled caste people about the developmental programmes in study area. Purposive sampling method was followed while conducting the study. The respondents for the study includes 100 households from both villages were selected for the study. The findings revealed that most of the population belong to scheduled castes are not fully aware of the various developmental programmes of the central/state government. This study was bonafide work of Unnam Kiran submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for award of Post Graduate Diploma in Extension and Communication in Rural Development through IGNOU.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Awareness of the Schedule Caste People & Developmental Programmes*

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## **INTRODUCTION**

India is a country with cultural diversity out of 4,635 communities in the country, 751 belong to the Schedule caste. Persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes comprises about 16.23 percent of the country's population as per census 2001, but their proportion among those living in poverty is much larger. Ajay Kumar Singh (2006) in his study on implementation of the integrated rural development programme found that the selection of beneficiaries for the programme was based on their relationship with the officials. The Schedule castes are at the bottom of the socio economic hierarchy in India. In order to help them to catch up with the development process of the rest of the population, to help improve their status and compete with others to securing professional jobs, the government of India and the state governments have made available to them various concessions and privileges. There are schemes for educational, economic and socio development including protective measures under the protection of civil rights act, 1955, and the Schedule castes and schedule tribes Act, 1989 along with the policy of reservation in public employment and education for upliftment of people belonging to scheduled castes. These schemes re-implemented through State Government / Union territories as Centrally sponsored schemes. Considerable allocations have been made in the various Five Year Plans for the welfare of the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes. Some of the serious pitfalls regarding the quantum and utilization of financial assistance to scheduled castes are inadequate financial or material assistance, delay in grants of stipends or scholarships, cumbersome and bureaucratic procedures followed to grant financial assistance and lack of awareness on part of Scheduled castes of benefits meant for them. Banks too contributed to the problems of the Scheduled castes. They deviated from prescribed norms by under financing delaying, not crediting the sanctioned subsidy and margin money to respective

beneficiaries account leads to lack of success of schemes at grassroots level.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Purposive sampling method was followed while conducting the present study. For the study, Prakasam district was purposively selected as the researcher is an employee of Syndicate Bank, Zarugumalli Mandal. Later it was decided to select two villages in Mandal on the basis of development, i.e where the irrigation facilities are there, literacy rate is high and having infrastructural facilities such as bank, high school, health sub-centre and also road and transport connectivity to Mandal headquarters and another village is underdeveloped village, i.e where there are no irrigation and infrastructural facilities, literacy rate is low, far away from Mandal headquarters. Thus, Zarugumalli village which is developed and Vaviletipadu which is underdeveloped were chosen on the basis of purposive sampling method.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

Schedule caste population with their low literacy levels and lack of social awareness are lagging behind in fully utilizing the various developmental programmes of the Central/State governments implemented to uplift the socio economic status of the scheduled caste population. Thus this chapter aimed at presenting the awareness among the scheduled castes about various welfare schemes.

### **Awareness about the Developmental Programmes**

Most of the population who belong to scheduled castes are not fully aware of the various developmental programmes of the central/state governments due to their illiteracy. Distribution of the sample respondents by awareness about the developmental programmes is presented in Table 1. It was observed from the table that more than half of the respondents are aware of only the programmes that are availed by them (64 per cent). Further, It is observed that 30 percent of the sample respondents aware of a few of the developmental programmes besides the programmes they are availed and 6 percent of the respondents aware of various developmental programmes.

Among different villages, it is observed that comparatively most of the respondents of the Zarugumalli have more awareness about the developmental programmes than the respondents of the Vaviletipadu. It is observed from the table that 84 per cent of the respondents of the Vaviletipadu aware of only the developmental programme that is availed while 44 percent of the respondents of the Zarugumalli aware of only the developmental programme that is availed. Further, It is observed that 44 percent of the respondents of the Zarugumalli aware of a few of the developmental programmes besides the programmes they availed, while this percentage is only 16 in case of Vaviletipadu. A few of the respondents of the Zarugumalli aware of various developmental programmes besides the programmes availed, while no respondent of the Vaviletipadu aware of various programmes. The reasons found for variations in levels of awareness between Zarugumalli and Vaviletipadu are the Zarugumalli have more exposure to media and their political mobility, which are lack in the case of Vaviletipadu.

**Table1: Showing whether the Respondents aware of the Developmental Programmes**

Name of the Villages	Whether the Rrespondent aware of the Developmental Programmes			Total
	Aware only of the Programme that is availed.	Aware of Various Programmes	Aware only a few Programmes besides the Programmes Availed	
Zarugumalli	22	6	22	50
	44%	12%	44%	100.00%
Vaviletipadu	42	0	8	50
	84%	0	16%	100.00%
Total	64	6	30	100
	64%	6%	30%	100.00%

### **Development Programme availed by the Respondents**

It is found from the study that scheduled caste population are not in a position to avail all developmental programmes due to failure in the implementation of the developmental programmes without partially. Respondents of the present study availed Indira Awas Yojana, Rajiv Yuvasakthi, DRDA and NREGP Programmes. Distribution of respondents by whether they availed more than one developmental programme is presented in Table2.

It is evident from the table that 64 Per cent of the respondents are availed only one developmental programme, while 24 per cent of the respondents are availed more than one programme. Further, it is noticed that 12 per cent of the respondents did not avail any of the developmental programmes.

**Table 2: Showing whether the Respondents availed more than one Development Programme**

Name of the Villages	Whether the Respondent availed more than one Development Programme			Total
	Aware only one Programme	Aware more than one Programme	Programmes not availed.	
Zarugumalli	26	20	4	50
	52%	40%	8%	100.00%
Vaviletipadu	38	4	8	50
	76%	8	16%	100.00%
Total	64	24	12	100
	64%	24%	12%	100.00%

Among different types of villages, it is observed that 76 percent of the respondents of the Vaviletipadu availed only one development programme, while 52 per cent of the respondents of the Zarugumalli availed only one developmental programme. Further, it is observed that 40 percent of the respondents of the Zarugumalli availed more than one developmental programme, while only 8 per cent of the respondents of the Vaviletipadu availed more than one programme. Further, it is observed that 16 percent of the respondents of the Vaviletipadu and 8 percent of the respondents of the Zarugumalli did not avail any of the developmental programmes.

Therefore, it may be concluded that more respondents of the Zarugumalli compared to the respondents of the Vaviletipadu availed more than one developmental programme. The reasons for this are found that respondents of the Zarugumalli are politically better than the respondents of the Vaviletipadu. Comparatively, among the respondents, who did not avail any of the developmental programmes, the respondents of the Vaviletipadu are more than the respondents of the Zarugumalli.

These are in line with the study of Muthalagu (2007) stated various poverty eradication programmes in India. One of the poverty eradication programme among is self-employment programme, which is introduced at the national level in the late 1970's. In the 1980's, the focus of the self-employment was extended to cover target groups such as scheduled castes and tribes. He concluded that it is incorrect to say that all the poverty eradication programmes have failed because the growth of middle-class people indicates that economic prosperity has indeed been very impressive in India, but at the same time, distribution of wealth is not at all even across the country.

## CONCLUSIONS

Prakasam District was purposively selected for the study as the researcher is an employee of Syndicate bank, Zarugumalli as Rural Development officer, to know the awareness of the scheduled caste people about the developmental programmes in study area. Purposive sampling method was followed while conducting the study. The respondents for the study includes 100 households from both villages were selected for the study. It was observed that more than half of the respondents are aware of only the programmes that are availed by them (64 per cent). Further, It is observed that 30 percent of the sample respondents aware of a few of the developmental programmes besides the programmes they are availed and 6 percent of the respondents aware of various developmental programmes. It may be concluded that more respondents of the Zarugumalli compared to the respondents of the Vaviletipadu availed more than one developmental programme. The reasons for this are found that respondents of the Zarugumalli are politically better than the respondents of the Vaviletipadu. Comparatively, among the respondents, who did not avail any of the developmental programmes, the respondents of the Vaviletipadu are more than the respondents of the Zarugumalli

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